GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:93
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002
PROTECTION TO RARE SPECIES OF BIRDS
SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Bombay Natural History Society and Bird Life International have warned that the number of rare species of birds is alarmingly dwindling in the country;

(b) if so, the date on which such a warning was issued;

(c) whether they have also stated that Pinhead Duck, Forest Owlet, Jardones Cruser, Himalayan Mountain Quail, Saras Crane and two species of vulture are also included in the list and these species need to be protected; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for protection of these rare species of birds?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a),(b),(c) & (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (a),(b), (c) & (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 93 REGAR `PROTECTION TO RARE SPECIES OF BIRDS` FOR REPLY ON 25-11-2002

(a) Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Birdlife International and several other organizations have been expressing concerns about decline in population of several bird species in India.

(b) Birdlife International has published `Threatened Birds of Asia` in collaboration with BNHS which was released on 5-6-2001. An updated version of this book `Threatened Birds of India` has been released by BNHS on 26-9-2002.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Pink headed duck and the Himalayan mountain quail were last sighted in 1935 and 1876 respectively and hence are considered extinct. Some of the important steps taken by the Central Government to protect Jerdon`s Courser , Forest Spotted Owlet, Saras Crane and Vultures are as follows :-

i) Protection status of Vultures has been upgraded from Schedule IV to Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 providing it the highest degree of protection under the Act.

ii) Crucial habitats of various species of wild animals and birds have been notified as National Parks and Sanctuaries. Important National Parks and Sanctuaries are also notified as Ramsar Sites and World Natural Heritage Sites.

iii) Management of the Wildlife Habitats is done on scientific lines, allowing only such activities in the National Parks and Sanctuaries which are for betterment of Wildlife.

iv) Support scientific research for monitoring the population status of various species and evolving strategies for in-situ and ex-situ conservation of various species.

v) National Wildlife Action Plan, 2002-16 and Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2002 have been framed and adopted in January 2002.

vi) Financial assistance is provided to State Governments for effective management of National Parks and Sanctuaries.